

**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**  
Minutes  
Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Panel Room, King Street Station

**Commissioners present:** Priya Frank (Chair), Jonathan Cunningham, Cassie Chinn, Steve Galatro, Quinton Morris, Chieko Phillips, Sheila Ghaibi, Kayla DeMonte

**Staff in attendance:** Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee

**Guests:** Margo Vansyngel, Michael Blumson

**Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:05)**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Steve moved to approve the joint commission minutes from November 2019, pending removal of two typos in the SAC attendees list – duplicate of Cassie’s name and Quinton’s name. Cassie seconded. Approved. *(Note: The November 2019 minutes also require approval from the Seattle Music Commission before being finalized. The next Music Commission meeting is February 19, 2020.)*

**Public Comment:**

- No public comment.

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Jonathan Cunningham is terming out at the end of 2019 and this meeting will be his last full commission meeting. The group appreciates and honors Jonathan’s 6 years on the commission!
- The group goes around the table for introductions.

**SAC/SMC Joint Retreat Next Steps**

**Briefing: Randy Engstrom**

Based on the work prioritization conversations at the November 2019 SAC/SMC joint retreat, each commission’s subcommittees will come up with workplans to share at the next joint meeting. In 2020, the two commissions will jointly meet twice (possibly in April and September). Each commission will have its own autonomy but will be strategically aligned and will make processes clear along the way.

- We now have a trifold handout that summarizes the Creative Economy research/community engagement findings and names the top items we can be doing as a city for creatives
  - We are now integrating this feedback and operationalizing in our work

**SAC Questions/Comments:**

- What are some recommendations for bringing together committee members from both commissions and new members? How do we make it welcoming, and do we need to rethink the meeting dates and times of the committees?
  - We should send invitations to members who have expressed interest in certain committees. There isn't an urgency but let's keep the doors open.
  - Maybe we can try a buddy system and get coffee/drinks with new people coming on
- What has been the response from OED staff around this work?
  - An FAQ was created by OED/OFM staff regarding restructure.
  - Since the October OED/OFM retreat, Randy has pulled away from the role of OFM's Acting Director and has been transitioning leadership to Chris Swenson and Bobby Lee, who will oversee the team until the new Creative Industries Director gets hired
- What was the film community's takeaway?
  - The purpose of inviting the film community was to provide space to hear their concerns, since they do not have a commission.
  - Chris Swenson will help convene a film taskforce to go through the Ostara film reports. Invitations to 8-10 community stakeholders will go out soon.
    - The work of the film taskforce will live more with OED/OFM. We can invite the film taskforce to the joint commission meetings to align our work based on recommendations and make sure we are tracking their needs. We will have a similar process with special events stakeholders

## **Director Report**

### **Briefing: Randy Engstrom/Calandra Childers**

1. The following proviso regarding payment of commissioners passed in the budget:
 

*A proviso requiring the city budget office to come up with a plan to compensate volunteers who serve on city boards and commissions, positions which often require huge time commitments but are currently uncompensated, leading to boards made up of people who can afford to (or are paid by their employers to) hold strictly volunteer positions.*

  - This is an issue being dealt with most boards and commissions. Some people are being paid on an hourly basis and some are not, so the City is doing research on this. SAC has been providing \$400 stipends (2 installments of \$200) per year to commissioners. We will continue to do this until the City comes up with a plan.
2. Appreciation of Commissioners Leaving
  - Jonathan, Juan, and Sharon are terming out at the end of 2019
  - The group honors Jonathan for his 6 years on the commission. Jonathan expressed that his work with the SAC has been enjoyable and informative to his work, and hopes to continue to work with ARTS
  - Juan and Sharon did not attend the meeting and we will honor them when the full SAC meets again in the new year
3. New Member Recruitment Update: We had put forward 4 potential members for Council seats and Councilmember Herbold chose 2. We want to invite the other 2 to join committees and when commission seats open, we will put them forward. Holly Jacobson, one of the other 2, is currently being put forward for a Mayoral seat.

- For our upcoming workplan we should try to be on top of our recruitment plan. In early Q2, we should plan to work on the recruitment matrix and cultivation of leadership
  - New and reappointments were confirmed today at CRUEDA
    - New Appointments: Yeggy Michael (Council), James Miles (Mayoral), Mikhael Mei Williams (Mayoral), Kayla DeMonte (Mayoral)
    - Reappointments: Sarah Wilke (Mayoral), Jescelle Major (Mayoral), Cassie Chinn (Council), Dawn Chirwa (Council), Chieko Phillips (Council)
  - Tracy plans to join back in January 2020
  - Since we have 8 new people on a commission of 16, the first couple of months will be level setting and testing out different spaces
  - There will be a staff & commissioners' holiday party in January where everyone gets introduced
  - Allie will schedule meetings for commissioners to meet with Randy
4. Chamber of Culture Update: Regarding the designation of cultural districts and Vivian Phillips to engage with the 4+ districts on what they need, Council asked for a progress update and ARTS wants to ask the commission first.
- This agenda item is on the next FED meeting in January – will figure out what tools will be useful and bring back to the full group.
    - Collaboration with the PAAC would be great re: wayfinding HCAACD
    - Is FED the proper committee for this item to live in?
      - Let's keep it in the FED and have people interested join. Vivian Phillips and Matthew Richter have been most close to the work
    - An acronym cheat sheet for new members would be helpful
      - FED has a 101 glossary as well

## **Chair Report**

### **Briefing: Priya Frank**

1. Welcome New Commissioners:
  - Kayla DeMonte – Managing Director of Citizen University. Focused on building a culture of powerful citizenship across country and getting people to recognize involvement
  - Sheila Ghaibi (Get Engaged Member) – Does social media and digital marketing for T-Mobile and is also a dancer. A lot of people consider themselves artists in Seattle and wants to bring awareness to the work of SAC
  - All other new commissioners will be at the next commission meeting and we'll do a part 2 to introductions
2. Announce New Co-chair
  - With Sharon terming out at the end of 2019, Quinton will be the new Vice Chair of the commission starting 2020 and will do work around re-cultivating relationships with Council and community engagement.
    - Quinton is excited to serve as Vice Chair and do strategic work with leadership
    - The executive committee is willing to step in in different capacities when Quinton or Priya is unable to
  - Steve Galatro Commission Confirmation: Steve's position is commission-appointed and needs to be approved by the group to move forward with another term.

- Jonathan moved to approve another term for Steve's appointment. Quinton seconded. All approved.
- 12/4 Mixer Debrief:
  - This event was a culmination and report out of all the summer community engagement around the creative economy initiative, including focus groups, surveys, and mixers
  - Sharon gave a great pechakucha presentation overviewing the creative economy work, followed by several commissioners hosting real talk conversations on stage with local artists that referred back to Sharon's talking points
  - Commissioners who attended the event felt it was great that this event was a place to appreciate the community for their involvement in the process, that the real talk conversations were engaging, and that the questions from the audience afterwards showed that they wanted to engage
    - The fundamental question seemed to be around how to build a more robust economy by decreasing disparities (and that job pockets are confusing)
    - Audience seemed to agree a lot with the young artist (Zoser) who spoke about struggles navigating the industry and youth opportunities. The struggle seemed to be common among all artists across different creative occupations and ages
  - The full report on the creative economy community engagement will be published soon

#### **SAC/ARTS Staff Holiday Party**

TBD in January – once confirmed a calendar invite will be sent out to the group

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.